

Spectator Code of Conduct

West Craven Tarheel League has implemented the following Spectator Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents and fans in supporting children in sports. Parents should read and understand this form prior to their children participating in our league. Spectators should also familiarize their selves with this document and understand the rules of attending sporting events held by West Craven Tarheel League.

Any spectator guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and be suspended from the following game, or if the situation warrants, there could be a multiple game suspension, or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games.

Preamble

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

- Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Good Citizenship.

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.”

We will uphold the following:

1. Spectators should remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
2. Be a positive role model for children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
3. Do not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent.
4. Do not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes or other spectators.
 - a. Both rules 3 and 4 apply to situations that may arise surrounding game play or personal matters.*
5. No booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
6. Teach players to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
7. Demand that all players treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
8. Teach players that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that children will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
9. Never ridicule or yell at a player or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
10. Emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit players over winning. Deemphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
11. Respect the officials and their authority during games and never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field.
12. A sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.
13. Refrain from coaching players during games and practices, unless you are one of the official coaches of the team.